Delay in Filling up of Top Posts in Public Sector Undertakings

*27. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question1219 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 1996 and State:

(a) whether there is any delay in filling-up the top posts in public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to appoint Chairmen and Members to the PSU Boards at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) Processing of cases for filling up full-time Board level posts is a continuous one as vacancies arise from time to time. The vacancy position for such Board level posts is constantly monitored to ensure that the vacancies are filled at the earliest. The procedure for processing of cases for filling up such vacancies was comprehensively reviewed in 1995, On the basis of this review certain procedures were modified. As a result of various efforts the position of vacancies, reported as 105 in the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1219 on 25.7.96, has been reduced to 87 as on 31.10.96.

Performance of the New Thorium Plant at Chhatrapur in Orissa

*28. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of the new Thorium plant set up at Chhatrapur in Orissa since it started commercial production;

(b) how does it compare with other plants;

(c) what are the new improvements made in this plant; and

(d) what are Government's plans for setting up of more such plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The new Thorium Plant at Chatrapur in Orissa, has been achieving its annual production targets since its commissioning in 1993.

(b) The only other plant of this kind in the Country is at Trombay, Mumbai which was set up in 1955. Since the old plant has out-lived its productive life, the comparison of the two plants would not be appropriate.

(c) In the new Thorium Plant, processing is through solvent extraction, which as reduced the number of processing steps and made the plant more or less continuous in operation, thereby reducing manual handling as compared to the old plant in Trombay.

(d) In view of the limited demand for Thorium Nitrate, there are no plans to set up additional Thorium Plants.

Integrated fuel policy

*29. SHRI DIPANKER MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Power had impressed upon the need for an exercise to be undertaken by the Planning Commission for evolving an integrated fuel policy;

(b) if so, whether such an exercise has actually been undertaken;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER KLAGH): (a) Ministry of Power had requested for evolving of short and long term fuel policy for power generation.

(b) to (d) Planning Commission has constituted an Energy Policy Committee which is looking into the various issues involved in the planning and development of the energy sector. Plans are being formulated, as part of